



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

**DATE:** October 30, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools

The Michigan Department of Education currently has \$10,000,000 in 2005-06 Title I School Improvement funds available to help support regional assistance to Title I schools that have been identified as having the greatest need for assistance in improving student achievement.

Department staff is proposing to make a portion of these funds available to intermediate school districts that meet the following criteria in order to increase the support system and accountability for High Priority Schools:

- Grants would be made available to the intermediate school districts with Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring (Phases 1-7) due to proficiency in 2006 and/or 2005. Each intermediate school district grant amount would be based on the number of identified schools within its jurisdiction. Approximately \$70,000 per school would be used as the calculating factor. These funds would be used to cover the cost of staff who will work collaboratively with Michigan Department of Education staff to provide direct services to high priority schools, as well as data information management, professional learning and increased accountability. If an intermediate school district with identified schools determines that it cannot provide the regional services, the grant would be made available to another intermediate school district in a designated area that is able to provide the regional services.

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For the 2006-07 school year, approximately \$8,890,000 would be needed to ensure that all Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring (Phases 1-7) due to proficiency in 2006 and/or 2005 were provided with appropriate, coordinated assistance.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for allocation of Title I School Improvement funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 30, 2006.

**MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools**

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

Ensuring Excellent Educators  
Elevating Educational Leadership  
Embracing the Information Age

Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy  
Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

Competitive   Formula   ☒   New   ☒   Continuation   *(check all that apply)*

The purpose of Title I School Improvement Regional Assistance grants is to support initiatives to improve academic achievement in High Priority Schools. The funds are used to provide professional staff and direct services to improve student achievement by implementing a school improvement, corrective action or restructuring plan, as required by the particular phase of each school. Criteria were last approved by the State Board of Education on October 12, 2004.

**LEGISLATION**

**SEC. 1003. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.**

(b)(2) may, with the approval of the local educational agency, directly provide for these activities or arrange for their provision through other entities such as school support teams or educational service agencies.

(c) PRIORITY- The State educational agency, in allocating funds to local educational agencies under this section, shall give priority to local educational agencies that —

- (1) serve the lowest-achieving schools;
- (2) demonstrate the greatest need for such funds; and
- (3) demonstrate the strongest commitment to ensuring that such funds are used to enable the lowest-achieving schools to meet the progress goals in school improvement plans under section 1116 (b)(3)(A)(v).

**RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA**

The use of School Improvement funds to partner with ISDs in providing support to High Priority Schools will enhance the efforts in the state to improve student achievement. The determination of appropriate assistance and coordination of

assistance efforts with Office of School Improvement staff and other networking partnering in this statewide effort provides essential support to the State Board Strategic Goal.

### **CRITERIA**

Defined in Legislation      X Defined in Department's Grant      X Proposed by Staff

Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) with Title I schools identified for any phase of improvement due to proficiency will receive a grant equal to approximately \$70,000 per identified school. These grants are intended to support allowable activities to attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students.

- If an ISD cannot provide services for its eligible identified schools, the grant would be made available to another ISD in the designated area.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

ISDs to assist schools identified for improvement based on proficiency. Map attached.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$10,000,000

### **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of School Improvement, Michael Radke

# Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools

## Intermediate School Districts Receiving Assistance

